

# MATTHEW 21 vs 1

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<sup>1</sup> And when they drew near to Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples / 2 mathetes: literally... those doing the math. Who were they? We'll never know, but the verse before, Matthew writes about 2 blind men... healed by Jesus who immediately follow Him... were they enlisted into service?

<sup>2</sup> Saying to them, Go to the village across from you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them to Me.

<sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, you will say, The Lord has need of it; and immediately he will send them.

<sup>4</sup> But this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup> Tell the daughter of Zion Behold, your King comes to you, meek / Zion is the City of David, where Solomon erected the first temple, these are enduring names for the citizens of Jerusalem; and their King wasn't coming on a horse, to be a brutal tyrant; He comes tamed: with power under control; not weak, not wimpy,

**and sitting on an ass**, with a colt the foal of an ass – prophesied 500 years earlier **Zechariah9:9**.

<sup>6</sup> And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them / can you imagine? Followers of the Lord actually did what He said to do,

<sup>7</sup> And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them coverings, and He sat on it.

<sup>8</sup> And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strew them in the way / it was joyous, I bet it was raucously jubilant.

<sup>9</sup> And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried out, saying,

**Hosanna to the son of David** / they were singing and shouting: Hosanna, save us we pray! Son of David, God's anointed; God's Messiah. -- **Psalms 118**: and somewhere in the middle of it all was Jesus.



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**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest** / marked with God's favor is He who comes representing the Lord God; Jesus was not fearful, and He did not come incognito; you can be sure He was smiling big time.

**<sup>10</sup> And when He arrived in Jerusalem, all the city was greatly moved** / the word is: *seis*; it was a seismic event! It was as if Jesus' appearing caused an earthquake. His entry got everybody's attention.

**ALL the city was moved, saying, Who is this?** / 3 times a year, those **ruled by God** were required to gather in Jerusalem having traveled from wherever they lived.

**<sup>11</sup> And the multitude said, This is the prophet Jesus of Nazareth from Galilee** / those traveling with Jesus were quick to give an answer. The prophet Daniel clearly said, Messiah would come before the 63<sup>rd</sup> week of years ended; hopefully the House of **Judah** was eagerly anticipating Messiah.



**<sup>12</sup> And Jesus entered the temple of God / somewhere on the temple precincts, and threw out all who sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers,**

**and the seats of them who sold doves** / everything went flying! And then He walked over... and kicked over the chairs of the dumb asses – all those idiots selling doves. It's great! Gentle Jesus gets pissed off. By the way, this is **Cleaning House – 201... not 101**. His second time cleaning up; and you can imagine... the high priest, who was making millions off the people, was getting irritated by this Jesus of Nazareth; but did Jesus care? **No!**

**<sup>13</sup> He said to them, It is written** / so Jesus calls them to pay attention to the authority of Scriptures, **My house will be called the house of prayer** -- **Isaiah 56**; but you make it a den of thieves / you make it a hangout for thugs and criminals, Wow, just like today.

**<sup>14</sup> And the blind and the cripple came to Him in the temple; and He healed them** / can you imagine?

**<sup>15</sup> And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things He did, and the children shouting** in the temple, saying,

**Hosanna to the son of David; they were extremely displeased** / they were very indignant; but who cares, stupid asses!!

**<sup>16</sup> And said to Him, Do you hear what these say?** / Jesus, are you deaf or what?



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And Jesus said to them, **Yes!** Have you never read / to the religious folk, Jesus questioned what they filled their minds with; what they built their faith on; was it their genius scribblings inferred from all their manmade traditions... or built on every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord,

From the mouth of children and nursing babies, You made perfect praise? -- Psalm 8; the only moment in the history of mankind this verse would be fulfilled. They were given 1,000 years to prepare and get ready... and with the jubilant crowd, they still did not recognize Him.

**17 Then He left them, and went out to Bethany; and He lodged there.**

**18 In the morning as He returned to the city, He was hungry.**

**19 He saw a fig tree along the way; and when He came to it, there was nothing on it, but only leaves** / on fig trees, the fruit appears first; and then followed by leaves... fluttering in the sunlight, the advertisement for the tree: It's lunchtime! Come and get it!

and He said to it **“Never again will fruit grow on you.”** / So Jesus talks to a tree; but don't worry, the Lord of glory who can walk on water, can also make rocks cry out His praise,

**And suddenly, the fig tree withered.**

**20 And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, How did this fig tree wither away so soon!** / as Professor Edersheim of Oxford University said, this is not how you tell fabulous fables, so bland and boring; so matter-of-fact. Had Jesus sounded like the vast number of scholars now days, there would never have been a multitude following Him to Jerusalem.

The greater problem Jesus confronted was... the fruitless gathering of the people at God's house of prayer.

**21 Jesus answered and said to them Truly** / literally, **AMEN**... Jesus knew, they saw the miracle, but they already forgot the children singing, and the religious clerics and their merchants making money; He sized up their startling surprise, and answered them,

**I tell you, If you have faith, and do not doubt, not only will you do what is done to the fig tree, but also, if you say to this little mountain /** most likely pointing to the Mount of Olives,

**“Be removed, and throw yourself into the sea,” it will be done.**

**22 And all you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.** / yet some will argue, miracles do not happen anymore; others, based on their very limited experience, they will say: impossible: but Jesus says, as is your faith, it will be done to you. I'm going with Jesus, how about you?

JESUS it is YOU

